

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A networked computer system for facilitating transactions, the transactions comprising borrowing of securities, the system comprising:

- 5 a database containing securities availability data;
a client computer; and
a server computer, wherein the server computer:

receives a securities borrow request transmitted by the client computer;

- 10 evaluates the borrow request based upon approval criteria, the approval criteria comprising availability of the requested securities, the availability being determined by the server computer utilizing the securities availability data;

generates, based upon the evaluation, an approval determination;

- 15 transmits to the client computer an indication of the generated approval determination; and

if any portion of the securities borrow request is determined to be approved, causes the securities availability data in the database to be updated to reflect a decrease in securities availability resulting from the approval.

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2. The system of claim 1, wherein the approval determination is automatically generated.

- 25 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the securities borrow request is transmitted securely.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the securities borrow request is entered into the client computer by a broker before the securities borrow request is transmitted to the server computer.

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5. The system of claim 1, wherein the securities borrow request is to facilitate an anticipated short sale transaction.

6. A networked computer system for facilitating transactions, the transactions comprising borrowing of securities, the system comprising:

a database containing securities availability data;

a client computer;

5 a trading computer; and

a server computer, wherein the server computer:

receives a securities borrow request transmitted by the client computer;

10 evaluates the securities borrow request based upon approval criteria, the approval criteria comprising availability of the requested securities, the availability being determined by the server computer utilizing the securities availability data;

if possible based upon the evaluation, generates an approval determination;

15 transmits to the client computer an indication of a status of the approval determination;

if the approval determination could not be generated for a first portion of the securities borrow request based upon the approval criteria, transmits an indication to the trading computer of a pending status of the first portion, and
20 receives from the trading computer a trading computer approval determination relating to the first portion, the trading computer approval determination having been entered into the trading computer; and

if any portion of the securities borrow request is determined to be approved, causes the securities availability data in the database to be updated
25 to reflect a decrease in securities availability resulting from the approval.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the approval determination by the server computer is automatically generated.

30 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the trading computer approval determination is a manual determination.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the securities borrow request is transmitted securely.

10. The system of claim 6, wherein the securities borrow request is entered
5 into the client computer by a broker before the securities borrow request is transmitted to the server computer.

11. The system of claim 6, wherein the securities borrow request is to
10 facilitate an anticipated short sale transaction.

12. The system of claim 6, wherein the server computer determines, for
any approved request, based on interest rate criteria, an applicable interest rate, and
wherein the interest rate is transmitted to the client computer.

13. The system of claim 6, wherein the securities borrow request is
15 formulated on the client computer by a user utilizing a spreadsheet-based application.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the spreadsheet-based application
allows the user to store specific sets of securities borrow request information for later
20 use through the application.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the spreadsheet-based application
allows the user to transmit selected sets of securities borrow requests to the server
computer.

25 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the spreadsheet-based application
allows the user to set an electronic timer to cause a selected set of securities borrow
requests to be transmitted at a selected time to the server computer.

30 17. In a networked computer system comprising a server computer and a
client computer, a method for facilitating transactions, the transactions comprising
borrowing of securities, the method comprising:



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determination;

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updated to reflect a decrease in securities availability resulting from the approval.

automatically generated.

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transmitted to the server computer.

facilitate an anticipated short sale transaction.

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computer;

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if possible based upon the evaluation, the server computer generating an approval determination;

the server computer transmitting to the client computer an indication of a status of the approval determination;

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25. The method of claim 22, wherein the securities borrow request is transmitted securely.

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the server computer receiving the securities borrow request and evaluating the securities borrow request based upon approval criteria, the approval criteria comprising availability of the requested securities, the availability being determined

by the server computer utilizing securities availability data contained in a database accessed by the server computer;

if possible based upon the evaluation, the server computer generating an approval determination;

5 the server computer transmitting to the client computer an indication of a status of the approval determination;

if the approval determination could not be generated for a first portion of the securities borrow request based upon the approval criteria, the server computer transmitting an indication to the trading computer of a pending status of the first
10 portion, and receiving from the trading computer a trading computer approval determination, the trading computer approval determination having been entered into the trading computer; and

if any portion of the securities borrow request is determined to be approved, the server computer causing the securities availability data in the database to be
15 updated to reflect a decrease in securities availability resulting from the approval.